ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1   Electronic mail software includes a main email component and

2   a number installable components. The installable components

3   include authoring/reading components for creating/reading

4   different kinds of documents and mailbox components for listing

5   different kinds of messages or for listing messages in different

6   styles. The main email component provides an underlying graphical

7   user interface for functions directly associated with the storage

8   and transfer of electronic mail messages, and also handles all

9   data bundling and unbundling required to transform a message

10   created by an authoring component into a MIME compliant message.

11   The authoring/reading components act like applications embedded

12   within the email program and allow specific types of documents

13   such as spreadsheets, graphics, databases, etc. to be created from

14   within the email program and emailed directly. The

15   authoring/reading components also allow received documents to be

16   read without the difficulties traditionally associated with

17   attaching binary files to an email letter. The authoring

18   components of the invention pass data to the main email component

19   which packages the data as a MIME compliant message. When the

20   message is received, the main email component concatenates and

21   decodes the MIME message and sends the data to the

22   authoring/reading component associated with the MIME type.